

KC-130J



DESCRIPTION

The KC-130 is a versatile four-engine, tactical aerial refueler/assault support transport aircraft. It is the only long-range, fixed-wing, assault-support capability organic to the Marine Corps. The KC-130J, with its increase in speed (+20 percent) and range (+35 percent) over legacy aircraft, features an improved air-to-air refueling system and a state-of-the-art flight station. The flight station includes two Head-Up-Displays, night vision lighting, augmented crew station, and fully integrated digital avionics architecture. A Rolls Royce AE 2100D3 propulsion system, with full authority digital electronic controls, Dowty R391 advanced technology six-bladed propeller system, and a 250-knot cargo ramp and door, complete the package, which will provide the MAGTF commander with a state-of-the-art, multi-mission, tactical aerial-refueler/assault-support transport asset well into the next century. The Marine Corps is currently replacing its aging active fleet of KC-130Fs and KC-130Rs with the new KC-130J.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The KC-130J provides the following capabilities: tactical in-flight refueling for fixed-wing, rotary-wing, and tilt-rotor aircraft; rapid ground refueling myriad aircraft or tactical vehicles; assault air transport of air, land or aerially delivered personnel and equipment; airborne command and control augmentation; pathfinder; battlefield illumination; tactical aero-medical evacuation; and, Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel support. This force multiplier is well suited to the mission needs of the forward-deployed MAGTF. The KC-130J will bring increased capability and mission flexibility to combat planning with its satellite communications system capability, survivability enhancements, aerial refueling and rapid ground refueling capabilities, and improved aircraft systems reliability.

PROGRAM STATUS

The KC-130J is procured as a commercial-off-the-shelf aircraft currently in production. The Marine Corps has entered a multi-year procurement program with the Air Force, bringing the total number of programmed KC-130J aircraft to 34. The Marine Corps requirement is 51 aircraft. Developmental/Operational Testing and an Operational Evaluation were completed in FY 05 with continued delivery to the fleet and IOC achieved in February 2005.

Procurement Profile:	FY 06	FY07
Quantity:	5	4

Developer/Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company